**Privatisation of production and distribution of LPG**

3039. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made, so far, in privatisation of production, import, bottling and distribution of LPG (Domestic and commercial); and

(b) how the cost and pricing structure of the private sector compare with that of the public sector oil companies for production/import to the consumer stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government have allowed private parties to import and market LPG in the country at market determined prices under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS) since 1993. Up to 30th June, 2000, 23 parties have imported about 788 TMT of LPG (Bulk) under PMS.

(b) The LPG (domestic) marketed by Public Sector Oil Companies is under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), whereas parallel marketeers are free to fix the price of LPG marketed by them.

**OFF-shore drilling by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin**

3040. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the deepest off-shore drilling made by ONGC, so far, for crude/Natural gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin; and

(b) the action proposed to obtain a rig which can drill upto 2000 meters depth off-shore for enhancing and improving recoveries by adopting new technologies in that basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The deepest off-shore drilling by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) so far for oil and gas in Krishna Godavari Basin is at well No. KD-1-1 (KD-AA) at a water depth of 843 metres.

(b) ONGC have a deep water rig, which has been upgraded to take up drilling of wells upto water depth of 900 metres. ONGC have planned alliances with multinational companies having expertise in deep-sea Exploration and Production activities, for which Government have accorded permission while extending the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) terms to six deep-

water blocks where ONGC holds Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) granted on nomination basis.

**Steps to check under Weight LPG Supply to consumers**

3041. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Companies had instructed to LPG distributors to ensure that delivery man carry with him a spring balance, so as, to check under weight LPG supply to the consumers;

(b) whether this instructions being complied with;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to provide complaint cards to the delivery man and action taken on the complaints by the customers within a fortnight; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue directives to the LPG distributors in the country particularly in metro cities to replace the under weight cylinders immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The LPG distributors are under instructions to check the correct weight of cylinders before the delivery to the customers.

(d) All the distributors are having complaints and suggestions register at the showroom for the customers to lodge complaints, if any, and these are attended to by the distributors/oil company officers during their periodic visit to the distributorships.

(e) All LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are under instructions to replace the under weight cylinders free of cost immediately if the same is supplied by mistake or other wise.

**Persons registered for LPG connections in Bihar**

† 3042. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people registered for LPG connections in Bihar, together with the district- wise details thereof;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.